

Press Release



Contacts:

Patricia Davis; Manager, Communications
Tom Veenstra; Director, Communications

561.340.1060, ext. 2360
561.340.1061, ext. 2229

Palm Beach County Unemployment Rate Remains Among Lowest in 5 Years

West Palm Beach, Fla. (June 21, 2013) -- Palm Beach County's unemployment rate for May 2013 is 7.0 percent – the lowest since June 2008 (6.5 percent) – and 1.6 percentage points less than the May 2012 rate of 8.6 percent. The county's unemployment rate matches the state and falls below the national rate of 7.3 percent, according to information provided today by Workforce Alliance and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity. May's rate is 0.2 percentage points above than the April 2013 rate (all numbers not seasonally adjusted).

"Palm Beach County gained nearly 7,000 jobs over the year and local unemployment continues to be among the lowest we've seen in five years," said Steve Craig, president and chief executive officer of Workforce Alliance, the nonprofit organization chartered by the state to lead workforce development in Palm Beach County.

Job growth: Palm Beach County gained 6,800 jobs over the year, experiencing employment growth in five industry categories: education/health services (+3,200 jobs – ranking third in the state in jobs gained in this category); trade/transportation/utilities (+3,000 jobs); professional/business services (+1,800 jobs); government (+1,300 jobs -- ranking first in the state in jobs gained in this category); and leisure/hospitality (+700 jobs). Workforce Alliance also has placed a record-setting number of people in jobs (more than 25,000) for the third consecutive program year and awarded \$6 million in training grants to help local businesses and employees become more competitive.

Workforce Alliance location changes: After today, Workforce Alliance is closing its downtown administrative office and relocating the staff there to its Central Career Center at 1951 N. Military Trail in West Palm Beach. Earlier this month, Workforce Alliance relocated its job seeker services from its South Career Center in Boca Raton to the Central Career Center. Consolidating these facilities will allow Workforce Alliance to use funds currently spent for leasing to increase funding for programs and services that benefit Palm Beach County job seekers and employers.

Services for employers: Workforce Alliance provides a comprehensive package of no-cost services to help businesses compete in today's challenging marketplace. These services include recruitment,



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assessments and referrals of qualified job candidates; space and staff assistance for screening/interviewing candidates; and grants for training new or existing employees.

Services for job seekers: On average, more than 15,000 visitors each month receive help from the specialized services at two Workforce Alliance Career Centers. The centers offer classes and facilities for job search, career development and consulting; and grants for job skills training – all at no cost for job seekers. Schedules of workshops and employers that are interviewing are posted on the Workforce Alliance website at www.pbcalliance.com.

More information on programs and services is available at the Workforce Alliance Career Centers:
-- Central Career Center-1951 N. Military Trail, Suite D, West Palm Beach, FL 33409; (561) 340-1060
-- West Career Center-1085 S. Main Street, Belle Glade, FL 33430; (561) 829-2040

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Note to editors: *You are invited to send a reporter/photographer/video crew to interview a Workforce Alliance spokesperson and/or job seekers at our Central Career Center in West Palm Beach. Please call 561.340.1060 ext. 2360 or 561.340.1061 ext. 2229 for scheduling.*



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